

media; while at the same time we have seen important public interest protections eliminated. For the first 50 years after enactment of the 1934 Communications Act, people had a right to petition the FCC if they found coverage to be one-sided. The "fairness doctrine" required broadcasters to cover issues of public importance and to do so fairly until, in 1987, under immense pressure from the media, it was eliminated. The loss of the fairness doctrine—a major blow to consumers—was supposed to be alleviated by a blossoming of independent, local outlets that would expand diversity by increasing competition. In other words, consumers would no longer be able to use the fairness doctrine to ensure that their views were represented on a specific media outlet but would be able to present those views through competing media in the same market. Unfortunately, the public is now faced with increased concentration—not increased competition—and no longer has the fairness doctrine to fall back on.

In the last 25 years, the number of TV station owners has declined from 540 to 460 and the number of TV newsrooms has dropped by almost 15 percent. Three-quarters of cable channels are owned by only six corporate entities, four of which are major TV networks. Seventy percent of all markets have 4 or fewer sources of original TV news production. In 1975, there were 860 owners of daily newspapers. There are less than 300 today. My constituents and many constituents across the Nation are frustrated that they are unable to hear different viewpoints and, increasingly, that they are unable to get their own viewpoints to others because of barriers to the visual and print media. I believe that there is significant argument for the FCC to recommend reinstatement of the fairness doctrine. At the very least, they should not allow even more ownership concentration that makes the loss of the fairness doctrine even more onerous.

Greater media ownership concentration limits the public's access to diverse viewpoints. Radio provides an example of what can happen when media ownership rules are abolished. In 1996, Congress eliminated the national ownership caps for radio. The result has been greater consolidation in the radio industry. In 1995, Clear Channel owned 1.3 percent of radio stations; today it owns 20.2 percent. In almost half of the largest markets, the three largest corporations control 80 percent of the radio audience. This has made it harder for diverse opinions to be heard. Just last month, Clear Channel refused to air an advertisement in which Congressman DANNY DAVIS and I expressed our opposition to waging war in Iraq. Clear Channel refused to put the advertisement on the air. Fortunately, several independent stations did.

Clear Channel, which owns 1200 stations across the country, has refused to air songs by the Dixie Chicks who have spoken against war in Iraq, it has put out a recommended "do not play" list that includes John Lennon's "Imagine" and 150 other songs, it has actively worked to support pro war rallies, and it has refused to play paid ads that do not reflect its own views. This is what happens when a few companies control the airwaves. The owners' bias is reflected in what they choose to put on the air and listeners are limited in what they are able to hear.

Part of the problem is that many entities that own media outlets are more focused on their

bottom line than the public good and the public's right to hear and express diverse views. The founder and CEO and Clear Channel said in a recent *Fortune* Magazine article, "We're not in the business of providing news and information. We're not in the business of providing well researched music. We're simply in the business of selling our consumers products." I appreciate Mr. Lowry's candor and I do not dispute his right to pursue profits. However, his statement clearly illustrates the problem. Greater media ownership concentration will hurt our democracy.

We must maintain media diversity and localism. We cannot allow information to be monopolized, rationed or censored because a free and open media is absolutely critical to the functions of a democratic society. The stakes are high and the threat to free speech is all too real.

I urge all the FCC Commissioners to hold and attend more public forums across the country on any specific proposed changes to existing rules, as a major part of their decision-making process.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD T. THOMPSON, CHANCELLOR OF OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable individual, Richard T. Thompson, Chancellor of Oakland Community College (OCC) upon his retirement from this outstanding five-campus institution.

Beginning his OCC career in 1996, Mr. Thompson was a member of the English, Social Science and Counseling faculty at the Highland Lakes Campus. He also served as Academic Dean and Campus Provost at that campus until 1975.

After 1975, Mr. Thompson held various positions, including Provost of the Orchard Ridge Campus, and College District Vice President for academic and student affairs in 1984. He was promoted to Vice Chancellor of academic affairs in 1988, and served as OCC's Interim Chancellor. In 1995 he was appointed Interim President of Auburn Hills Campus.

On March 19, 1996, Richard T. Thompson assumed the Chancellorship of OCC, as its sixth chief executive officer. This appointment marked the first time in history of the college that an OCC academician was chosen to head its five-campus institution.

Professional and community activities are also a significant part of Mr. Thompson's life. The Providence Hospital Community Board, the Educational Advisory Board, the Oakway Symphony and the Better Business Bureau are some examples of the wide range of interest and service he has provided.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard T. Thompson for his dedication and devotion to Oakland Community College, an outstanding institution of higher learning, and for the high quality of education and the inspiration he has provided for its students during his tenure.

I wish Richard, and his wife, Nancy, good health and happiness in whatever paths they choose to take in retirement.

EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2003 supplemental appropriations bill, yet express my sincere disappointment that the amendment offered by Representative OBEY to increase funding for our homeland security needs was defeated on a party-line vote.

I support our troops in the field, and believe it is the responsibility of Congress to provide our armed servicemen and women with the resources they need to achieve victory in Iraq and return home quickly and safely to their families. Just as important, however, is the responsibility of Congress to ensure the safety and security of our hometowns. Representative Obey's amendment would have added \$2.5 billion for homeland security needs, including \$150 million for State public health and environmental laboratories to deal with chemical weapons attacks, \$800 million for the equipment and training needed to let local fire, police, and medical personnel meet the difficult challenges a terrorist attack would entail, and \$66 million to help the Reserves train and relocate deployable military hospitals. This amendment would have taken a significant step to protect American communities and neighborhoods.

By rejecting this amendment, the House missed an opportunity to address pressing unmet needs for protection of the American people from terrorist attacks. I am concerned that the failure of the amendment to be made in order will delay for months and perhaps longer the implementation of numerous simple, straightforward steps that we should be taking to prevent future catastrophic attacks against the United States.

For the RECORD, I submit a copy of a letter I received from Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Rich Stanek, urging support of additional funds for homeland security in the supplemental to assist Minnesota's rising homeland security needs. Representative Obey's amendment would have gone a long way toward meeting this need, but unfortunately the Republican Party in Congress said "no" to Minnesota and "no" to this new funding.

Protecting our homeland is a nonpartisan issue. Nothing is more important than the security of our hometowns and our families. As this bill moves to conference with the Senate, I hope we can agree that homeland security needs must be above party-line politics.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT

OF PUBLIC SAFETY

St. Paul, MN, March 28, 2003.

Hon. BETTY MCCOLLUM,
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McCOLLUM: As the United States continues military action to

disarm and liberate Iraq, Minnesota's Office of Homeland Security has taken a number of security measures to assess any potential risks and to ensure the safety of Minnesotans throughout the state.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEPC) was partially activated at the onset of military action and was fully activated at 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2003. The SEOC remained fully activated until 11:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2003 and partially activated until 8:00 a.m. on March 24, 2003. In addition, the Minnesota State Patrol was deployed on March 17, 2003 for security purposes to the Flint Hills Oil Refinery, Ashland Oil Refinery, Prairie Island and Monticello Nuclear Plants, and the Minneapolis and St. Paul Water Treatment Facilities. On March 19, 2003, the Minnesota National Guard relieved State Patrol troopers and continued to provide facility security until 7:00 a.m. on March 26, 2003.

State cost estimates to activate the SEOC and to provide facility security total approximately \$463,000. The major costs incurred by the state were the facility security costs: Department of Military Affairs, Minnesota National Guard (\$368,000) and Department of Public Safety, Minnesota State Patrol (\$65,000). There were also just over \$30,000 in costs to activate the SEOC which include some operating and overtime costs for other state agencies. These costs do not include any costs at the local level to provide security or to prepare and respond to potential threats.

The cooperation and coordination at the state level has gone very well, and I am pleased that Minnesota has no incidents to report. In a conference call with the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Ridge assured states that every attempt would be made to seek reimbursement for costs to provide heightened security at critical infrastructure sites. As Congress prepares to act on a supplemental appropriations bill, any funds you can secure for Minnesota's extraordinary costs, particularly in light of the state's budget crisis, will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Minnesota. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

RICH STANEK,
Commissioner.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay Federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program.

Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them. It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of gov-

ernment "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes. What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government.

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 123, on the motion to recommit H.R. 1036 with instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKET- BALL TEAM ON WINNING THEIR FOURTH NATIONAL CHAMPION- SHIP

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team, who defeated the University of Tennessee Volunteers 73-68 to win the NCAA tournament on April 8, 2003.

I would like to offer special congratulations to Head Coach Geno Auriemma who won his second consecutive national title. After losing four senior starters last year, junior Diana Taurasi took control of the team and led them to victory, scoring 28 points.

Mr. Speaker, these extraordinary young women do not need me to tell them that they are champions, or that their accomplishments are appreciated. This year was supposed to be a year of rebuilding, but the Huskies were not going to rest on their laurels. Over the past 2 years they have only lost one game.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out that although they are young adults themselves the outstanding achievements of the this team offers a fine example to our nation's young people. I applaud them for all of their achievements both on and off the court.

IN MEMORY OF CDR WILLIAM W.
COBB

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of CDR William W. Cobb of Atlantic Beach, FL.

CDR Cobb was born in Lexington, MO, on November 7, 1920. He was raised in Lexington and Long Beach, CA, and attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington. CDR Cobb was a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and was immediately ordered to sea duty in the Pacific. He saw combat action during several battle campaigns on the USS *Indianapolis* and the USS *Wasp*.

After World War II, CDR Cobb completed flight training in 1947 and went on to his first squadron tour in VP-26 from 1947-1949. He subsequently was assigned as Executive Officer and Instructor, NROTC at the University of Missouri in Columbia, before returning to flight duty as the Deputy Director of Plans and Operations, 1503rd Air Transport Wing in Tokyo, Japan. CDR Cobb assumed duties as the Assistant Operations Officer, NAS Moffett Field, California, and from 1958 through 1960, he was assigned duties as Senior Pilot and Patrol Plane Commander in Airborne Early Warning Squadron Three, based in Aguna, Guam.

CDR Cobb reported to the Pentagon for duty in the office of the Chief of Naval Information after a tour as a student at the Army Language School in Monterey, CA. He served under Admiral J.S. McCain, the father of Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

CDR Cobb retired from the Navy in July of 1964 after 24 years of honorable and dedicated service. He had a second career in sales and as a realtor in McLean, VA. He resided in Alexandria, VA, from 1961 to 1990. After a second retirement, CDR Cobb and his wife, Jean, also a former Lexington native, moved to Fleet Landing in Atlantic Beach, FL. His wife, a former Miss Lexington and runner up in the Miss Missouri pageant, passed away in 1999. They were married for 56 wonderful and productive years.

Mr. Speaker, CDR Cobb was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his son Rear Admiral William W. Cobb, Jr.; a daughter, Susan E. Cobb; a sister, Mrs. C.C. Shannon; a grandson, granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY D. LYNCH IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE ON BE- HALF OF MICHIGAN VETERANS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Jerry D. Lynch, State Commander of the Michigan American Legion, for his tireless service on behalf of all veterans and active duty military personnel through the nation's largest wartime veterans' organization, the American Legion.